

ICD-10-CM PREFACE DRAFT

June 2003

Introduction

This pre-release draft of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) has been developed by the United States Government in recognition of its responsibility to promulgate this classification throughout the United States for morbidity coding. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organization (WHO) is the foundation for ICD-10-CM and continues to be the classification employed in cause-of-death coding in the United States. The ICD-10-CM is comparable with the ICD-10. The WHO Collaborating Center for the Family of International Classifications in North America, housed at NCHS, has responsibility for the implementation of ICD and serves as a liaison between the WHO fulfilling international obligations for comparable classifications and the national health data needs of the United States. The historical background of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision appears in the WHO publication.

ICD-10-CM is a clinical modification of the World Health Organizations' International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10). The term clinical is used to emphasize the modification's intent: to serve as a useful tool in the area of classification of morbidity data for indexing of medical records, medical care review, and ambulatory and other medical care programs, as well as for basic health statistics. To describe the clinical picture of the patient the codes must be more precise than those needed only for statistical groupings and trend analysis.

Characteristics of ICD-10-CM

ICD-10-CM far exceeds its predecessors in the number of concepts and codes provided. The disease classification has been expanded to include health-related conditions and to provide greater specificity at the sixth digit level and with a seventh digit extension.

Guidance for the use of this classification can be found in the Official Coding and Reporting guidelines section of ICD-10-CM (www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm).

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